

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-28 are pending, with claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 18 and 23 being independent. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled; and claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. No new matter has been introduced.

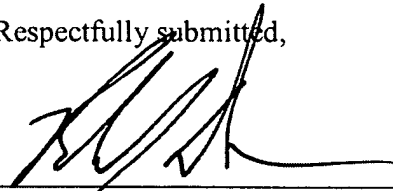
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-12 and 18-27, and the Examiner's indication that previously pending claim 15 is directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14, 17 and 28 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,070). Applicants have amended claim 13 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 15 and, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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